

Roxann Giordano
34 Garden Drive
New Windsor, NY
12553

As a commercial flight attendant, I am absolutely opposed to the proposed legislation to allow cell phone usage in flight!

As much as the FCC and the airlines want to appease the paying public with this supposed little perk in flight, it will only turn out to be a major problem for safety and an annoyance to everyone involved.

As it stands now, we allow passengers in the U.S.A. to use their cell phones after landing. I can tell you first hand that not one passenger using a cell phone after landing listens to any crew member who is giving out pertinent information. NOT ONE! They talk and then try to talk louder trying to compete with the passenger address system. Most of them get off the plane asking questions that were answered and delivered over the passenger address system. If they were paying attention to the crews instead of the use of their cell phone, there would be no problem. Can you understand how in the case of an emergency that this will have an enormous effect on the ability to inform and evacuate passengers! Time is of the utmost importance in an emergency, and if a flight attendant cannot have all passenger's attention when informing and demonstrating procedures it will have an enormous effect on the survivability rate in a disastrous accident. Even in a non life-threatening emergency we need to have total and undivided attention.

Another aspect of the use of cell phones in flight is that it will also help aid the terrorists that we are trying to thwart. Imagine a terrorist pulling out his Blackberry to e-mail the positions of the flight crew, where suspected Air Marshall's might be or perhaps when the flight deck door might be opened for a pilot to step out. Also the fact that most cell phones have camera ability and information and placement of specific personnel can be transmitted. These are just a few of the scenarios that are possible, because as we know, terrorists will use and abuse every aspect that we give them.

As far as the annoyance issue I stated, we now have restaurants and bars that have designated cell phone usage areas because there has been enormous complaints from customer's who don't want to have to listen to people talking on their cell phones. In close quarters such as airplanes, it will just cause other passengers to be offended and bothered by people who don't have enough sense to use phone etiquette. And you know that this will happen! People don't use proper phone etiquette and we've all been exposed to this day in and day out. Which again brings another issue for the flight attendants to have to deal with when a passenger complains about another on their cell phone being too loud, vulgar or just plain chatty while the other passenger is just trying to relax. And that's if the two passengers don't get into a fight themselves over it.

Once again, I strongly think the FCC should reconsider the use of cell phones during flight on all aircraft.